



# LINCOLN CHAFEE

## U.S. SENATOR

## RHODE ISLAND

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### **CHAFEE ANNOUNCES \$2 MILLION TO PROTECT PORT OF PROVIDENCE**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs member, U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee, today announced that the Providence Police Department will receive a total of \$1,896,612 for security improvements to the Port of Providence. The funding was distributed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Port Security Grant Program awards for fiscal year 2005.

Of the award, \$1,085,612 will be devoted to improving perimeter security in and around the port area, reducing vulnerability to a potential attack. The remaining \$811,000 will be devoted to vast improvements to port-wide communications systems. The focus of these security enhancements will be to protect against small craft, underwater attacks and vehicle borne improvised explosives, as well as to enhance to the facility's explosion detection capabilities.

"This funding will further advance ongoing security improvements to this critical port. Because of the port's deep waters, proximity to urban areas, and the bridges and roads located within the vicinity, it continues to be a lifeline to the economic prosperity of Rhode Island. Protection of this port is critical for the state's economy, as significant amounts of natural resources and other materials imported through Providence reduce the costs of importing them from Connecticut and Massachusetts. In addition, contracts for the security work being performed continue to benefit Rhode Island companies such as Raytheon," Senator Chafee said. "I am pleased this funding has been allocated to improve the security around the port, and I am happy to see Rhode Island at the forefront of this issue of national significance. As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I remain committed to working with federal, state, and local officials to ensure Rhode Island's ports, highways, airports, and coastlines remain safe for all."

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